



EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE



Regular Meeting

Friday, April 29, 2016 – 9:00 am

**Location: Hall of Administration: Board Hearing Room
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana, California 92701**

MINUTES

MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS

- Ron Blaul (excused)
- Jinha M. Park, MD, Ph.D.
- Nick Anas, MD
- Timothy Greco, MD
- Michael Ritter, MD
- James Karras
- Virg Narbutas
- Dean Grose
- Trez Gutierrez, RN
- Lindley Garcia, RN
- Chief Wolfgang Knabe
- Bryan Hoynak, MD (excused)
- Chief Kevin Baker (excused)
- Rebecca Gomez
- Vacant
- Vacant
- Vacant

CATEGORY REPRESENTED

- Board of Supervisors, First District
- Board of Supervisors, Second District
- Board of Supervisors, Third District
- Board of Supervisors, Fourth District
- Board of Supervisors, Fifth District
- Ambulance Association of OC
- Hospital Association of Southern California
- League of California Cities
- Orange Coast Emergency Nurses Assn.
- Orange County Business Council
- Orange County Fire Chiefs Association
- Orange County Medical Association
- Orange County Police Chiefs/Sheriffs Assn.
- Orange County Senior Citizens Advisory Council
- American Red Cross, OC Chapter
- OC City Managers Association
- Society of OC Emergency Physicians

HEALTH CARE AGENCY STAFF

- Sam Stratton, MD
- Tammi McConnell, MSN, RN
- Richard Sanchez
- Steven Thronson
- Denise Fennessy
- Laurent Repass, NRP
- Rey Montoya
- Vicki Sweet, RN
- Jason Azuma, EMT-P
- Juan Alvarez
- Andrew Roberts
- Kirsten Wong
- Erica Moojen
- Eileen Endo
- EMS Medical Director
- EMS Administrator
- Health Care Agency Assistant Director
- Deputy Agency Director, Regulatory/MS
- Interim Chief of Operations, Regulatory/MS
- EMS Information Systems Chief
- EMS Performance Chief
- ALS/CQI Coordinator
- OC-MEDS Coordinator
- EMS Specialist
- EMS Specialist
- EMS Specialist
- EMS Office Supervisor
- Office Specialist

Other Guests Present

Jesus Acosta, SMMC-San Clemente employee
Heidi Acquay-Asare, RN, SMMC-San Clemente employee
Rocky Allen, Mercy Air Service
Robert Andersen
Mayor Bob Baker, City of San Clemente
Pam Baker, resident of San Clemente
Peter Bastone, resident of San Clemente
Randy Black, Orange County Fire Authority
Marian Bobyena
Debby Boka, resident of Dana Point
Kathy Boka, resident of Capistrano Beach
Councilmember Tim Brown, City of San Clemente
Angelica Cardenas, resident of San Clemente
Lisbeth Castillo, representing SEIU-UHW
Judy Clark, resident of San Clemente
Michael Clark, resident of San Clemente
Ruth Clark, RN, OC Global Medical Center
Leroy Cox, resident of San Clemente
Kim Cratty, resident of San Clemente
Ryan Creager, Mercy Air Service
Laura Cross, RN, Mission Hospital
Dr. Steven Cullen, resident of San Clemente
Pete Curran, resident of San Clemente
Jim Dahl, resident of San Clemente
Lori Dawson, resident of Laguna Niguel
Art DeLuca, SMMC-San Clemente employee
John Dettvler, Lynch Ambulance Service
Erik Dimitruk, representing SEIU-UHW
Ma Cecelia Domingo, resident of San Clemente

Councilmember Lori Donchak, City of San Clemente
Chad Druten, Emergency Ambulance Service
Jose Duque & client, resident of San Clemente
Medi R. Faro
Marian Fournier, resident of San Clemente
Lourdes Garcia, SMMC-San Clemente employee
Dr. Gus Gialamas, Save San Clemente Hospital
Lyle Gialamas, RN, resident of San Clemente
Shawn Gurren, Lunch Ambulance Service
Troy Hagen, Care Ambulance Service
Don Hansen, resident of San Clemente
Tina Heinemann, RN, Lynch Ambulance Service
Louise Herbert, resident of San Clemente
Jo Hernandez, Save San Clemente Hospital
Alfred Jacobs, PRN
Brennan James, SMMC-San Clemente
Nick K., resident of San Clemente
Carol Keene, SMMC-San Clemente employee
Kristy Khachigian, representing Senator Patricia Bates
My-Kien Kim
Fire Chief Jeff LaTendresse, City of Laguna Beach
Andrew Logemann, SEIU-UHW
Adriana Lopez, SMMC-San Clemente employee
Walt Lynch, Lynch Ambulance Service
Kathy Lyons
Shirley Marquiss, resident of San Clemente
Marleni Mastrangelo, SMMC-San Clemente employee
Richard Metcalf, resident of San Clemente
David Miller, representing SEIU-UHW

Amber Nielsen, SMMC-San Clemente employee
Dolores Padgett, resident of San Clemente
Terri Plunkett, SMMC-San Clemente employee
Patrick Powers, PMH, Inc.
Byron Rex, resident of San Clemente
Susan Ritschel, RN, SMMC-San Clemente employee
Eric Ross, MD, Loma Linda University
Allan Roy, resident of San Clemente
Barbara Scheinman, SMMC-San Clemente employee
Renee Seberry, resident of San Clemente
Karen Sharp, RN, SMMC-San Clemente
James L. Smith, resident of San Clemente
Jeanne Snider, Save San Clemente Hospital
Daniel Souza, resident of San Clemente
Terri Souza, resident of San Clemente
Trevor Stonum, MedCoast Ambulance Service
Tony Struthers, SMMC-San Clemente
Ann Tack, resident of San Clemente
Renee Taylor, resident of San Juan Capistrano
Joni Taylor, RN, resident of Dana Point
Kristin Thompson, RN, Newport Beach Fire Dept.
Donna Vidrine, RN, resident of San Clemente
Warren Vidrine, resident of San Clemente
Christine Waddell, RN, Huntington Beach Hospital
Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Ward, City of San Clemente
Debbie Weddle, SMMC-San Clemente employee
Elaine West, San Clemente Villas
Bill Weston, Care Ambulance Service
Stephen Wontrobski, resident of Mission Viejo

SMMC-San Clemente: Saddleback Memorial Medical Center-San Clemente
SEIU-UHW: Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Chief Wolfgang Knabe.

II. **INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Emergency Medical Care Committee members approved the minutes from the January 29, 2016 meeting as submitted.

IV. **OCEMS REPORT / CORRESPONDENCE**

• **Medical Director's Report:**

– *Dr. Stratton reporting:*

- **Staffing Change:** Dr. Kenneth Miller, Orange County EMS Assistant Medical Director and the Medical Director for the Orange County Fire Authority accepted the full-time position as medical director for Santa Clara County Emergency Medical Services and has already begun his new position.
- **OC-MEDS Program Report:** Laurent Repass, EMS Information System Chief presented a report on the Orange County Medical Emergency Data System (OC-MEDS) and the processes being implemented. State law requires that both emergency and non-emergency providers to use an electronic patient care reporting system by January 1, 2017. Both the Newport Beach Fire Department and Premier Medical Transport (Brea) have met NEMSIS 3.4 compliance. It is anticipated that Garden Grove and Orange City Fire Department will meet compliance in one to two months.
- **Hospital Diversion Report (January 1 to March 31, 2016):** Attached to the agenda packet is the Orange County Hospital Diversion Report for the period of January 1 to March 31, 2016 (Attachment #2). This report has also been posted to the OCEMS website under EMS System Reports.
- **Mid-Year Report: 9-1-1 Emergency Ambulance Transportation Contract Performance:** Attached to the agenda packet is the 2015-16 Mid-Year Report for 9-1-1 Emergency Ambulance Transportation Performance in the five exclusive operating areas awarded by the Orange County Board of Supervisors (Attachment #3). This ambulance activity report has also been posted to the OCEMS Website under the EMS Ambulance Performance Section.
- **EMCC Correspondence:** Orange County EMS received two letters from Mr. Wontrobski which are included in this packet. These letters (Attachment #4) have also been posted to the OCEMS website.

V. **EMCC ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE AND ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS**

Dr. Stratton provided a report on agenda items brought before the Facilities Advisory, County Paramedic; and Education and Training Advisory Committees while Jim Karras provided a report on agenda items heard before the Transportation Advisory Committee.

VI. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Appointment of EMCC Slate of Officers for Calendar Year 2016:** Dr. Stratton reported that as required under EMCC bylaws, a nominating committee comprised of Dean Grose, Jim Karras, and Dr. Michael Ritter, met via conference call. The Nominating Committee has nominated Fire Chief Wolfgang Knabe to serve as Chair and Dr. Michael Ritter to serve as Vice-Chair for the upcoming year.

The Emergency Medical Care Committee voted unanimously to elect Fire Chief Wolfgang Knabe to serve as Chair and Dr. Michael Ritter to serve as Vice Chair for the 2016 calendar year as recommended by the nominating committee. (Motion made by Dr. Anas/Seconded by R. Gomez)

- B. **Orange County EMS Policy Revisions and Public Comment:** Attached to today's agenda packet are copies of Orange County EMS Policies/Procedures # 720.30 (Ground Ambulance Design/Documentation/Equipment); #720.50 (Ground Ambulance Vehicle Inspection); #720.60 (Ground Ambulance Provider Policies, Procedures, and Documentation); #720.70 (Ground Ambulance Communication Equipment); #310.10 (Determination of Transport to an Appropriate Facility) and #330.70 (Paramedic Assessment Unit (PAU)); copies of the correspondence submitted by representatives of the Ambulance Association of Orange County; copies of the public comments and responses to the public comments (see Attachment #5). These policies were released on November 19, 2015 for a 50-day public comment period. On March 18, 2016, these policies were re-released for an additional 15-day public comment period. These policies were included on the April 27, 2016 Transportation Advisory Committee as an action item. However, this Committee did not have a sufficient number of voting members present to make a recommendation. Dr. Stratton presented background information outlining the various public forums at which these policies have been presented and photographs of ambulance equipment found to be unacceptable by OCEMS staff found during ambulance inspections.

Committee members heard concerns expressed by the Ambulance Association of Orange County regarding the standards and how they are interpreted when inspections are conducted. The AAOC requests that the Emergency Medical Care Committee make the recommendation that these policies be referred back to the Transportation Advisory Subcommittee for revision and ask that OCEMS staff meet with providers so that any differences may be ironed out.

Dean Grose felt that ambulance units that are found to be unacceptable should be pulled from service. He further added that the Transportation Advisory Committee should have an opportunity to further discuss these policies to reach a consensus with ambulance service providers.

Chad Druten, President of the Ambulance Association of Orange County (AAOC) expressed the concerns of the companies that are represented by the AAOC.

Motion #1: *Recommend that a) Orange County EMS Policy/Procedures #720.30 (Ground Ambulance Design/Documentation/Equipment); #720.50 (Ground Ambulance Vehicle Inspection); #720.60 (Ground Ambulance Provider Policies, Procedures, and Documentation); and #720.70 (Ground Ambulance Communication Equipment) be referred back to the Transportation Advisory Subcommittee for discussion; and b) recommend that Orange County EMS Policies/Procedures #310.10 (Determination of Transport to an Appropriate Facility); #330.70 (Paramedic Assessment Unit (PAU)); and the new Pediatric Emergency Receiving Center (PERC) policy be approved by the Emergency Medical Care Committee (Motion: J. Karras/Seconded: D. Grose; Motion failed to pass: 2 ayes-9 noes)*

Motion #2: *The Emergency Medical Care Committee recommended that Orange County EMS Policy/Procedures #720.30 (Ground Ambulance Design/ Documentation/Equipment); #720.50 (Ground Ambulance Vehicle Inspection); #720.60 (Ground Ambulance Provider Policies, Procedures, and Documentation); #720.70 (Ground Ambulance Communication Equipment); #310.10 (Determination of Transport to an Appropriate Facility) #330.70 (Paramedic Assessment Unit (PAU))and the Pediatric Emergency Receiving Center policy be approved as submitted. (Motion: Dr. Ritter/Seconded by T. Gutierrez: Motion passed: 9 ayes-2 noes)*

VIII. **PUBLIC HEARING: Closure of Emergency Department at Saddleback Memorial Medical Center – San Clemente**

Dr. Stratton opened the public hearing for the purpose of soliciting any and all pertinent public comments (both written and verbal) with respect to the announced closure of Saddleback Memorial Medical Center – San Clemente. Dr. Stratton stated that the purpose of this public hearing was to ensure that community members and healthcare providers impacted by the hospital closure are given an opportunity to comment to Orange County EMS on the hospital's closure. State law (California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1255.1 – 1255.3, 1300(b), 1300(c) and 1364.1) and Orange County EMS Policy/Procedure #615.00 (Impact Evaluation) mandates a process to assess the impact of downgrading or closure of emergency services in receiving hospitals. All comments will be included in the final impact evaluation report that is submitted to the California Department of Public Health. A copy of the draft impact evaluation report is included in today's agenda packet and has also been posted to the OCEMS website. Dr. Stratton's presentation included Orange County EMS' role in the closure; County demographics, demographics for the City of San Clemente, types of services provided by the hospital; a summary of ED beds, ED

visits, and 9-1-1 patients for the hospital and surrounding hospitals. A number of letters, e-mails, and comments which will be included in the impact evaluation report. Comments were limited to approximately two minutes per speaker.

Approximately 40 individuals provided comment at the public hearing. Residents from the cities impacted by the hospital closure, hospital employees (current and former), and representatives from the Service Employees International Union – United Healthcare Workers (SEIU-UHW) voiced their concerns on the closure of the hospital. The public comments heard expressed concerns on the impact on the community's access to emergency care due to the current lane widening project along a 10 mile stretch of the I-5 between San Clemente and Mission Viejo; the negative impact of the hospital closure on the community including longer transport times; the anticipated growth coming into the area; the loss of quality of services that have occurred; and the impact of an expected increase in population due to new residential housing, some of which will be restricted to senior citizens, will have on the community. Some individuals spoke on the excellent care received by patients and the many lives saved because of the prompt care received and urged the postponement of the hospital closure. Many residents indicated that they purchased homes due to the close proximity to the hospital and reported that many patients are driven to the hospital rather than call 9-1-1. A petition with more than 11,000 signatures opposing the closure was submitted by the Save San Clemente Hospital Foundation.

The following individuals provided comment at the public hearing:

Lori Donchak, a City Council Member and the District Representative for South Orange County on the Orange County Transportation Authority Board
Kathy Ward, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of San Clemente
Tim Brown, San Clemente City Council:
Bob Baker, Mayor of the City of San Clemente
Jim Smith, resident of San Clemente, President of Bella Vista Homeowners Association
Richard Metcalf, resident of San Clemente
Heidi Acquay-Asare, RN, employee of SMMC-San Clemente
Amber Nielsen, employee of SMMC-San Clemente
Dr. Steven Cullen, representing the Save San Clemente Hospital Foundation
Debby Boka, resident of Dana Point
Carol Keene, RN, resident of San Clemente speaking on behalf of Dr. Alice Moran
Kathy Boka, resident of Capistrano Beach
Lourdes Garcia, employee of SMMC-San Clemente (via translator)
Robert Andersen (member of Doheny Longboard Association)
Warren Vidrine resident of San Clemente
Dolores Padgett, RN, resident of San Clemente and President of the Coast Homeowners Association bordering San Clemente (former employee of SMMC-SC)
Renee Taylor, resident of San Juan Capistrano
Lyle Gialamas, RN, resident of San Clemente
Jose Duque, SMMC-San Clemente employee and caregiver for a resident (via translator)
Resident of San Clemente who is cared for by Jose Duque
Leroy Cox, resident of San Clemente:
Elaine West, Manager of San Clemente Villas by the Sea
Michael Clark, resident of San Clemente (retired health care executive)
Allan Roy, resident of San Clemente
Jim Dahl, resident of San Clemente (retired Orange County firefighter)
Pete Curran, resident of San Clemente (retired Orange County firefighter/paramedic)
Louise Herbert, resident of San Clemente
Don Hansen, resident of San Clemente
Dr. Gus Gialamas, Chairman of the Save San Clemente Hospital Foundation
Byron Rex, resident of San Clemente
Andrew Logemann, Research Worker for the SEIU-UHW
Erik Dimitruk, Research Analyst for the SEIU-UHW
Adriana Lopez, resident of San Clemente and employee at SMMC-San Clemente (via translator)
Donna Vidrine, RN, resident of San Clemente
Debbie Weddle, RN, employee at SMMC-San Clemente

Susan Ritschel, RN, employee at SMMC-San Clemente (former mayor of San Clemente)
Jesus Acosta, resident of San Clemente and employee at SMMC-San Clemente
Terri Plunkett, employee at SMMC-San Clemente (Radiology)
Barbara Scheinman, social worker at SMMC-San Clemente
Marleni Mastrangelo, RN, employee at SMMC-San Clemente

Committee Member Comments:

Dean Grose: The impact evaluation report should reflect the needs of the community and the concerns expressed at the public hearing. These include the need of a fully-functioning emergency department within the community; freeway construction that is expected to be completed in December, 2018; hospital diversion which will result in longer transport times; the addition of 14,000 residents being built in the area; and the extended period of time that ambulances will be out of service.

Jim Karras: Thanked everyone for their comments and stated that plans are in place to increase ambulance service to ensure that the city has sufficient ambulance coverage.

Dr. Stratton reported that the final impact evaluation report would reflect the input presented here today. This report will reflect those of the speakers and written comments that have been received.

VIII. **MEMBER COMMENTS**

None.

IX. **PUBLIC FORUM**

X. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 29, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.